

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): An image processing apparatus, comprising:

storage control means for controlling storage of a plurality of pixels inputted thereto;

detection means for detecting a boundary line ~~in the proximity of said pixels~~ between a first pixel of said plurality of pixels and a second pixel of said plurality of pixels by comparing differences between pixel values associated ~~with at least two of said pixels~~ of said first pixel and said second pixel;

position calculation means for calculating a position ~~positions~~ of the boundary line with respect to said first pixel ~~pixels~~;

weighting means for weighting ~~the pixel values of said pixels~~ said first pixel based on the spatial distance between said first pixel and said second pixel ~~pixels~~ and the ~~positions~~ position of the boundary line calculated by said position calculation means; and

outputting means for outputting said first pixel ~~pixels~~, wherein the weighted pixel ~~values~~ are value is associated with said outputted first pixel ~~pixels~~.

Claim 7 (currently amended): An image processing method, comprising:

controlling storage of a plurality of pixels inputted in a storage device;

detecting a boundary line ~~in the proximity of said pixels~~ between a first pixel of said plurality of pixels and a second pixel of said plurality of pixels by comparing differences between pixel values associated ~~with at least two of said pixels~~ of said first pixel and said second pixel;

calculating a position ~~positions~~ of the boundary line with respect to said first pixel ~~pixels~~;

weighting the pixel value ~~values~~ associated with said first pixel ~~pixels~~ based on the spatial distance between said first pixel and said second pixel ~~pixels~~ and the ~~positions~~ position of

the boundary line wherein weighting the pixel value values includes blending at least two of the pixel values of said plurality of pixels; and

an outputting step of outputting said first pixel ~~pixels~~, wherein the weighted pixel ~~values~~ are value is associated with said outputted first pixel ~~pixels~~.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A recording medium on which a computer-readable program is recorded, the computer-readable program comprising:

a storage control step of controlling storage of a plurality of pixels inputted in a storage device;

a detection step of detecting a boundary line ~~in the proximity of said pixels~~ between a first pixel of said plurality of pixels and a second pixel of said plurality of pixels whose storage has been controlled by the processing of the storage control step by comparing differences between pixel values ~~associated with at least two of said pixels~~ of said first pixel and said second pixel;

a position calculation step of calculating a position ~~positions~~ of the boundary line with respect to said first pixel ~~pixels~~ whose storage has been controlled by the processing of the storage control step;

a weighting step of weighting the pixel value values of said first pixel ~~pixels~~ based on the spatial distance between said first pixel and said second pixel ~~pixels~~ and the ~~positions~~ position of the boundary line calculated by the position calculation step, wherein said weighting step includes blending at least two of the pixel values associated with said plurality of pixels; and

an outputting step of outputting said first pixel ~~pixels~~, wherein the weighted pixel ~~values~~ are value is associated with said outputted first pixel ~~pixels~~.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The image processing apparatus of claim 6, wherein the weighting means controls weighting of the pixel value values of said first pixel ~~pixels~~ when there is no boundary line ~~on~~ between said first pixel and a right-side or left-side adjacent pixel ~~left-hand or right-hand sides of a noticed pixel~~ or there is no boundary line ~~on~~ between said first pixel and an upper or lower adjacent pixel ~~upper or lower sides of the noticed pixel~~.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The image processing method of claim 7, wherein the weighting step controls weighting of the pixel value values of said first pixel pixels when there is no boundary line ~~on~~ between said first pixel and a right-side or left-side adjacent pixel ~~left-hand or right-hand sides of a noticed pixel~~ or there is no boundary line ~~on~~ between said first pixel and an upper or lower adjacent pixel ~~upper or lower sides of the noticed pixel~~.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The recording medium of claim 8, wherein the weighting step controls weighting of the pixel value values of said first pixel pixels when there is no boundary line ~~on~~ between said first pixel and a right-side or left-side adjacent pixel ~~left-hand or right-hand sides of a noticed pixel~~ or there is no boundary line ~~on~~ between said first pixel and an upper or lower adjacent pixel ~~upper or lower sides of the noticed pixel~~